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CS406

## DISTRICT 26 RESEARCH MEMORANDUM

Representative Canduit,

Your constituents and fellow American citizens, as you likely know, are not fully educated on the current and potential future scope of the United States' federal cybersecurity legislation, nor the state-level laws that may affect them. You have tasked me with coalescing recent developments so you may be prepared for the upcoming elections. My findings have been as follows:

On July 15<sup>th</sup> of the year 2019, the SBA Cyber Awareness Act (House Resolution 2331, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2331>) and its concurrent bill, the Small Business Development Center Cyber Training Act of 2019 (House Resolution 1649, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1649>), both passed in the House of Representatives. The SBA Cyber Awareness Act calls for improvements to the Small Business Administration's IT infrastructure, specifically in the field of cyber defense. In addition to this, it calls for the Small Business Administration to annually report to congress to provide a report on its IT infrastructure, as well as keep track of systems and equipment in use by the Administration that are connected to businesses that have a connection to the People's Republic of China. This means that the bill would ensure that customer and similarly protected and confidential

information are adequately protected against cyberattacks. In addition, this also allows congress to remain up to date and aware of how the Small Business Administration is upkeeping their infrastructure, as well as addressing the potential threat of unauthorized access to United States government systems by foreign actors. The report must also include a review of cybersecurity incidents that have affected the Small Business Administration's infrastructure, including a review and explanation of their incident response, allowing Congress and the public to remain aware of how well the Small Business Administration is able to resist and respond to cyberattacks. Lately, in recent years, American citizens have been concerned about the government's ability to prevent leakage of data the may harm them if disclosed. Not only that, but the People's Republic of China's public image has turned to outright antagonism in a major part of the American population. Particularly, in the field of espionage, military and corporate, Americans have developed an adverse outlook of China.

The concurrent bill, the Small Business Development Center Cyber Training Act, requires the Small Business Administration to establish a certification program by which to certify at least 5% or 10% of the total number of employees of a Small Business Development Center run by the Small Business Administration provide cybersecurity planning assistance to small businesses. Small Business Development Centers provide training, advising, and assistance to small businesses and entrepreneurs with little capital to begin their businesses and ventures. This will allow small businesses with little funding to properly seek training to ensure that their businesses are in compliance with protective cybersecurity laws that otherwise may be confusing and difficult to navigate for a layman, all without requiring them to pay out of pocket for advising from civilian legal or IT firms that may charge frustrating rates for advising and training. This provides options that eliminate or otherwise circumvent numerous roadblocks that

a potential entrepreneur may face along the way to starting the business and avoid potentially career-ending fees that may come with failing to remain in compliance with state and federal cybersecurity laws. In recent decades, numerous speakers in contemporary politics have shown concern for the state of small businesses in America, complaining that there is little room for “mom and pop” ventures to thrive as larger corporations do, especially as legislation becomes more and more difficult to navigate with the limited resources that a small business or starting entrepreneurial venture are forced to work with.

While these laws have yet to be passed, it shows clear signs that it would be an excellent addition to US Federal Code. Their current text, in my opinion, are well written to address the problems they seek to solve. I feel that by supporting this pair of laws, and by emphasizing how they effect protection against Chinese interference with American citizens’ lives, and how they remove barriers to entry to self-employment, you can gain more points in the race for reelection.